

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09181 140717Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00  
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PA-02 /115 W  
-----048685 140755Z /13

R 131222Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2202  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9181

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNUC, PDIP, PEPR, IN  
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF NUCLEAR TALKS

1. AS BACKGROUND FOR YOUR DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND HIS TEAM, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE JUNE 13 "HINDUSTAN TIMES" "LEAD STORY ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE FILED FROM NEW YORK BY THE NEWSPAPER'S EDITOR, HIRANMAY KARLEKAR. HEAD-LINED "HOPES OF NUCLEAR ACCORD VANISH AS SETHNA LEAVES US", THE STORY SAYS THAT THE FAINT HOPE THAT "TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS" OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT'S PROVISIONS MIGHT BRING US AND INDIAN POSITIONS CLOSER ON THE ISSUE VANISHED WHEN DR. SETHNA LEFT FOR INDIA JUNE 11. ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT SETHNA DEPARTED ON SCHEDULE, KARLEKAR SAID THAT HE MIGHT HAVE STAYED ON FOR FURTHER TALKS IF LAST FRIDAY'S DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE HAD PROMISED PROGRESS. ACCORDING TO KARLEKAR, THE "CLAIRIFICATIONS" DISCUSSED IN THE TALKS INCLUDED THE DEFINITION OF "NUCLEAR ACTIVITY" AND HOW THE SAFE-GUARDS CALLED FOR IN THE ACT COMPARE WITH THOSE REQUIRED BY THE IAEA. SINCE THE TALKS ON EXTREMELY "RIGID"

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PROVISIONS OF THE ACT DREW A BLANK, KARLEKAR SAYS THE CARTER-DESAI TALKS WILL HAVE TO INVOLVE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

2. KARLEKAR REHEARSES THE TWO-PRONG INDIAN APPROACH OF SEEKING IN THE SHORT-TERM THE SHIPMENT OF THE NEXT TARAPUR CONSIGNMENT AND IN THE LONG TERM, CONSIDERATION

OF THE "BROAD PATTERN" OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND ISSUES  
LIKE THE NPT AND DISARMAMENT.HE RELATES DESAI'S  
ANSWERS TO NUCLEAR QUESTIONS AT PRESS CONFERENCES DURING  
HIS VISIT TO THE US AND CONCLUDES THAT THE PRIME  
MINISTER'S "FORTHRIGHT EXPOSITION" AND "UTTERLY FRANK"  
ANSWERS ON THE ISSUE HAVE CONVINCED MANY THAT INDIA  
HAS NO INTENTION OF GOING IN FOR A MILITARY NUCLEAR  
PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO KARLEKAR, THIS MAY HAVE AN IMPACT  
ON AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AND MAY HELP THE USG "TO  
HELP INDIA IF IT WANTS TO", BUT OF DECISIVE IMPORTANCE IN  
THE TALKS WILL BE THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND CALCULATIONS  
OF BOTH COUNTRIES. CITING WIDE DIFFERENCES,KARLEKAR  
CONTRASTS INDIA'S INABILITY TO SIGN AN "INIQUITOUS  
TREATY" WITH THE US VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT  
TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO SIGN THE NPT IF INDIA  
DOES NOT. KARLEKAR CONCLUDES THAT IT SEEMS FAIRLY  
CLEAR THAT INDIA CAN BE REASONABLY SURE OF GETTING  
THE CURRENT SHIPMENT OF FUEL BUT MAY NOT HOPE FOR  
MORE.  
BLOOD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS RELEASES, NONPROLIFERATION AGREEMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** MNUC, PDIP, PEPR, IN, (DESAI, MORARJI)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014